

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-17 are pending in the present application, Claims 8, 9, 16, and 17 having been amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 8 is found, for example, in the originally filed specification at page 4, lines 34-39. The amendments to Claims 9, 16, and 17 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 8, 11, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fiorino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,750,071, hereinafter Fiorino); and Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Slough (U.S. Patent No. 4,409,080).

With rejection of Claims 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 8, 16, and 17 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded by Applicants as the invention.

Claim 8 is amended to remove the term “relevant.” Claims 16 and 17 are amended to remove the phrase “application of the method.”

Accordingly, this ground for rejection is believed to have been overcome. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 8 as anticipated by Fiorino and as anticipated by Slough, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 8 overcomes these grounds of rejection. Amended Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein a potential difference between the one of the at least two metal-containing structures and another of the at least two-metal containing structures is at a level of the electric passivation voltage.”

Fiorino discloses that a metal subject to an applied or induced voltage may be protected from or made less susceptible to corrosion by applying an alternating voltage to the metal subject.<sup>1</sup> However, Fiorino does not disclose or suggest "wherein a potential difference between the one of the at least two metal-containing structures and another of the at least two-metal containing structures is at a level of the electric passivation voltage."

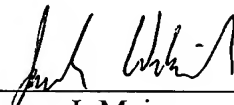
Slough discloses a system for corrosion monitoring. As part of the system, a structure under galvanic corrosion includes an anode and a DC power supply connected between the structure and the anode for counteracting galvanic corrosion.<sup>2</sup> However, Fiorino does not disclose or suggest "wherein a potential difference between the one of the at least two metal-containing structures and another of the at least two-metal containing structures is at a level of the electric passivation voltage."

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Fiorino and Slough.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> Fiorino, col. 4, lines 44-47.

<sup>2</sup> Slough, col. 1, lines 64-67.